

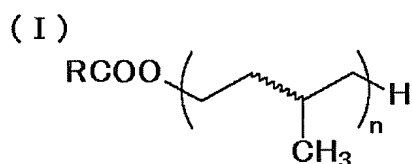
AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

LISTING OF CLAIMS:

Claims 1-24 (Canceled).

Claim 25 (Previously Presented): A method for improving bone metabolism comprising administering to a subject in need thereof, as the active ingredient, chain isoprenoid fatty acid esters represented by the following general formula (I):



wherein R represents a hydrocarbon functional group,
the wavy line means a single or double bond,
n represents an integer ranging from 1 to 14, provided that when n is 2 or higher, the wavy lines may be the same or different, and
the fatty acid constituting the chain isoprenoid fatty acid esters has 2 to 30 carbon atoms.

Claim 26 (Previously Presented): The method of claim 25, wherein the fatty acid constituting the chain isoprenoid fatty acid esters is a linear unsaturated fatty acid.

Claim 27 (Previously Presented): The method of claim 26, wherein the linear unsaturated fatty acid constituting the chain isoprenoid fatty acid esters is a member selected from the group consisting of n-6 type unsaturated fatty acids, n-3 type unsaturated fatty acids and conjugated fatty acids.

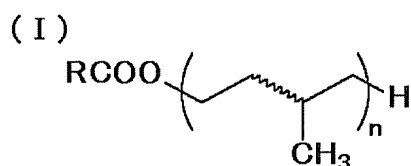
Claim 28 (Previously Presented): The method of claim 27, wherein the n-6 type unsaturated fatty acid constituting the chain isoprenoid fatty acid esters is a member selected from the group consisting of linoleic acid, γ -linolenic acid, bis-homo- γ -linolenic acid and arachidonic acid.

Claim 29 (Previously Presented): The method of claim 27, wherein the n-3 type unsaturated fatty acid constituting the chain isoprenoid fatty acid esters is a member selected from the group consisting of α -linolenic acid, stearidonic acid, eicosatetraenoic acid, eicosapentaenoic acid, docosapentaenoic acid and docosahexaenoic acid.

Claim 30 (Previously Presented): The method of claim 27, wherein the conjugated fatty acid constituting the chain isoprenoid fatty acid esters is a member selected from the group consisting of conjugated linoleic acid and α -eleostearic acid.

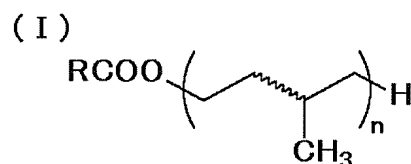
Claim 31 (Previously Presented): The method of claim 33, wherein the alcohol constituting the chain isoprenoid fatty acid esters is a member selected from the group consisting of geraniol, farnesol, geranyl geraniol, phytol and dihydrophytol.

Claim 32 (Previously Presented): A method for improving bone metabolism comprising administering to a subject in need thereof, as the active ingredient, chain isoprenoid fatty acid esters represented by the following general formula (I):



wherein R represents a hydrocarbon functional group,
the wavy line means a single or double bond,
n represents an integer ranging from 1 to 14, provided that when n is 2 or higher, the wavy lines may be the same or different, and
the alcohol constituting the chain isoprenoid fatty acid esters is one derived from vegetable oils and fats.

Claim 33 (Previously Presented): A method for improving bone metabolism comprising administering to a subject in need thereof, as the active ingredient, chain isoprenoid fatty acid esters represented by the following general formula (I):



wherein R represents a hydrocarbon functional group,
the wavy line means a single or double bond,

the wavy lines may be the same or different, and
n is 2 to 4.

Claims 34 - 37 (Canceled).